



PROFILE

The United States Navy Band is the Navy's premier musical representative in Washington, D.C. The band is directed by Cmdr. Ralph M. Gambone, the 11th officer to hold this position.

The Navy Band is recognized by many as "The World's Finest" and is staffed by some of the nation's best musicians. Established on March 4, 1925 by an Act of Congress, the Navy Band has participated in 18 presidential inaugurations and presents honors at White House ceremonies and memorial services in Arlington National Cemetery. The band also presents public concerts in the Washington metropolitan area, and tours the country annually.

The Navy's top musicians are also featured in national events such as the 1999 Veterans of Foreign Wars 100th Anniversary celebration at their national convention in Kansas City, Mo.; the 1998 rededication of the Wright Brothers National Memorial in Kill Devil Hills, N.C.; the 1997 dedication of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Ceremony of Dedication; the 1995 Korean War Veterans Memorial celebration; the 1993 rededication of the Statue of Freedom and bicentennial of the U.S. Capitol Building; and the 1991 Desert Storm Victory Celebrations in Washington and New York.

In 1999, the band performed at the Festival International De Musiques Militaires De Quebec in Quebec City, Canada, which featured military bands from Canada, France and Germany. In 1998, the band was honored to perform with Academy Award winner, Gregory Peck, at the Navy's 223rd Birthday Concert at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and made their second appearance at the Swedish Army Tattoo in Stockholm. The band performed in 1996 at the 300th Anniversary of the Russian Fleet in St. Petersburg, and at The Baltic International Festival of the Fleets in Kaliningrad, Russia. The Navy Band and its Country Current specialty group performed in 1992 as part of the Swedish Army Tattoo in Stockholm. The tattoo featured military bands from six countries, including the Military Orchestra of the Guard of Honor from Moscow, Russia, which also performed with the Navy Band during a joint concert in Stockholm's Berwald Hall.

In the educational field the band sponsors the International Saxophone Symposium, now in its 22nd year; the "Music in the Schools" program for elementary and secondary schools, now in its eighth year; and for music educators, the "Newly Published Music Workshop," now in its sixth year.

Often featured on network radio and television, the Navy Band and Country Current appeared on Frank Herzog's "Window on Washington" presented by WUSA-TV Channel 9 in 1999. The Navy Band was also featured on NBC's "Today" show during the 1997 Presidential Inaugural celebration in Washington, D.C., as well as the 1995 Veterans Day festivities in New York City.

The Navy Band occupies a position of national prominence, both as a service tradition and distinguished musical organization.